Projection for medical tourists

1996. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI:
DR. M. A. M. RAMASWAMY:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons arrived in India during the last three years for medical treatment-cum-tourism;

whether the actual figures are far below the projections made during the above period;

if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;

the number of'Medical Visas' issued during the above period for the foreign tourists visiting the country for medical treatment purposes;

whether Government has taken any steps to achieve the future targets and to boost the medical tourism in the country;

if so, the details thereof; and

if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (g) Ministry of Tourism does not collect separate information on medical tourist traffic to India and no projection/target about medical tourists has been made. However, the steps taken by the Government to promote medical tourism include promotion in overseas market through brochure, CDs, films and other publicity materials.

India Tourism Office in China

1997. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

whether India and China had agreed to open their tourism offices on either side of the border under the Friendship Through Tourism Programme;

whether China has already opened its tourism office in India last August with India still undecided about the locations of its office in China; and

the reasons for the delay in opening the India Tourism Office in China and whether it will be well before the ensuing Beijing Olympics?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) As per the Action Plan adopted for celebrating 'India China Year of Friendship Through Tourism' both countries agreed to open their tourism offices in each other's country. China has already opened its tourism office in New Delhi in August, 2007 and Government of India has approved the Opening of India Tourism Office in Beijing, China.

Visa-on-Arrival

1998. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to grant visas on arrival to promote tourism;